Pastor Appreciation

Thank you for all you do

A Special Supplement to

The Mount Airy News
THE TRIBUNE
The Yadkin Ripple
Stokes News
Why is it appropriate to set aside a special time each year to give recognition and affirmation to our clergy and their families? How are their needs and circumstances different from those of carpenters, grocers or dentists?

One distinction lies in the nature of the service these leaders provide. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments— the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Another problem lies in the expectations placed on pastors. Numerous surveys have found that a very high percentage of pastors feel pressure to be the ideal role model of a Christian family—which is impossible, of course. As a result, four out of five pastors feel their families are negatively impacted by unrealistic expectations—whether self-imposed or congregation imposed—and that ministry is an outright hazard to the health of their families. Indeed, the “pedestal” is not all it’s cracked up to be.

As pastors and their families try to please the God who called them to minister while also trying to meet the expectations of their congregations, one result is dangerous stress. In fact, 75 percent of those surveyed reported experiencing a significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry.

Then, of course, there is the “fishbowl” aspect of ministry, whereby the entire lives of pastoral families seem to be on public display. Every private family situation quickly seems to become a congregational or community issue. This anxiety can only be heightened when financial pressures also come to bear, which is common since pastors typically make substantially less each year than their own board members and deacons. Nearly 70 percent of pastoral spouses work outside the home, most often due to financial need. No one would choose to live life under these conditions unless they felt obliged to a higher, divine directive.

Unfortunately, all too often, these are exactly the conditions under which pastoral families serve. The good news is that we can make a difference! Pastor Appreciation Month is an attempt to counter the negative erosion in the lives of our spiritual leaders with positive affirmation.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

(Luke 4:18 KJV)

We are grateful for your giving spirit, your loving heart, and your selfless dedication to the spiritual growth of our congregation. Your leadership has created ever-growing opportunities for us to touch our community and experience the Grace of God in serving others.

1401 N. Main Street, Mt. Airy, NC 27030
336-786-5627
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Routh
www.gracemoravianchurch.org

“We, at Flat Rock Baptist Church, are truly blessed to have Pastor Rusty Reed and his wife Judy, serving our church. Pastor Rusty is truly a Godly man and a friend to everyone. He preaches the word of God with such enthusiasm. His dedication and love for everyone is so appreciated by the church family as well as all who know him. May God bless you, Pastor Rusty, as you continue to serve our church. We love you!”

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:29

1313 E. Pine St., Mount Airy, (336) 786-7661
Thank you Pastor Cory and Pastor Brendon for your endless dedication and service to our church and our community, but most importantly for preaching and teaching God’s word. We appreciate you and love you and your families.

Senior Pastor, Rev. Cory Honeycutt will celebrate his 10th year with us in March of 2021. One of Cory’s favorite verses is Matthew 6:33 “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Associate Pastor, Rev. Brendon Crowe began his ministry with us in May of 2018. One of Brendon’s favorite verses is Philippians 1:6 “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

At Dobson First Baptist Church we want to love God and love one another. We try to do this through: worship, prayer, telling the Good News to unbelievers, teaching God’s Word to believers, ministering to those in need, being generous with our time, talents and money and being involved in missions both near and far. Chris Tomlin’s song “God of This City” states that “For greater things have yet to come And greater things are still to be done in this city.” We are excited to have been worshipping in the great town of Dobson for over 160 years and look forward to seeing what God has in store for our community.

If you do not have a home church, we would love to have you join us. You will hear preaching of the scriptures taught to you in an understandable manner that can be applied to your life and your own personal relationship with God.
We want to say
THANK YOU
Brother Ken for being a great Pastor and Friend. We appreciate that you have continued to preach the Word of God, never compromising, for the past 36 years. We Love and pray for you and Sister Sue daily!
Love the Congregation

We invite you to
Gospel Mission Baptist Church

Sunday School........................9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..................11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship...............6:00 p.m.
Prayer Meeting Wednesday....7:00 p.m.

Sunday Radio Broadcast Ministry
“Let’s Take a Look” 4:00 p.m. every Sunday on WPAQ, 740 AM or 106.7 FM or go online to www.wpaq740.com/listen-online/

1046 Linville Rd.
Mount Airy, NC 27030
(336) 789-3444
Carrying A Little Honey Along.

Genesis 43:11

There was a severe famine in Canaan; the pale horse of death was galloping through the streets. The finger of death was closing its grip on many throats, and from the homes of many were there heard cries of hunger that caused even the strongest person to shudder.

Sometime before, grain has been purchased in Egypt. But that had been exhausted, and there was now a desperate need to return again to Egypt for more precious grain to feed the starving masses in Canaan.

Joseph’s brothers had already been down in Egypt and they know that they could not return, unless they took with them, Benjamin, their youngest brother. Skillfully the eloquent Judah explains to his aged father, and then Jacob, the aged one, has some suggestions of his own.

Verse 11: “if it must be so now, do this: take along the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, spices, myrrh, nuts, almonds and a little bit of honey.”

Beloved, life is a very serious business, and before we realize it, we are burdened down with heavy responsibilities, decisions, discouragement and many other things that we did not ask for.

We must travel the rocky roads of monotony; we must cross the sharp stones of personality. There are the hot deserts of defeat. There are the marshes of dilemma. The quicksand’s of Flattery, and a thousand other obstacles that I cannot number now, but listen, and listen again to the advice Jacob gave his sons before they went down to Egypt the second time to buy grain “Don’t forget to carry a little bit of Honey along”.

Allow me to share with you some of the times when I believe it will be good for us to make sure we are “Carrying A Little Bit Of Honey Along”.

I: When the Tensions Are Running High:

John 18: 10: Then Simon Peter having a sword, drew it and smote the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus. Verse 11: Then said Jesus unto Peter, “Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it”?

Luke 23:33: And when they were come to the place which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, verse 34: Then said Jesus, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”.

(A) Tensions were enormously high during this time, yet, there was one who carried a little bit of Honey along.

(B) We are living in a world marked by tension. Many responsible people have seemingly reached the breaking point. But, to those who do not forget to carry a little bit of honey along, I know The Lord has Special Blessings.

II: When the Responsibility is Heavy:

Acts 20: 28: Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

(A) Who among us that does not feel the pressure of the economy, along with the family responsibility. Every one of us has heavy responsibility, and to even top that, God has called some of us to be Overseers of His Flock, and the eternal weight of Responsibility comes upon us. During these heavy burdens, “Carry a Little bit of Honey along”.

(B) Paul is speaking from the little island of Malta here to the Elders of Ephesus, and the greatness of the Responsibility placed upon him looms very apparent, yet, He is carrying a little bit of honey along. Look down in verse 37

Verse 37: And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul’s neck, and kissed him.

III: When People Misunderstand You:

Acts 16:15: And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them

(A) Here are two of Gods men who were carrying the Gospel, and they were misunderstood for their deeds of nobility. They were trying to keep people out of Hell, but no one in Philippi seemed to understand, instead they cast them into prison.

(B) You don’t have to live long until people will misunderstand you.

Illustration: man ran into the drug store asked for something for the hiccups- the druggist hit the man right on the chin, and knocked him flat. Surprised, the man got up, and said, all I did was ask if you had anything for the Hiccups. You don’t have them anymore do you, said the druggist. I never did have them, said the man. My wife out in the car has them.

So, as we plan for our future and traverse life’s highway let’s all remember Jacob’s advice in Genesis 43:11: “if it must be so now, do this: take along the best fruits in the land in your vessels, and carry down the man a present, a little balm, spices, myrrh, nuts, almonds and a little bit of honey.”

Bro. Ken
Pastor Appreciation

In Honor of Our Pastor Winford Davis

Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father. 1 Thessalonians 1:3. May the Lord bless you and give you peace and joy. Thank you for your 55 years of devoted service to God by preaching His word without compromise and bringing sinners to Christ. We sincerely appreciate your love for the church, your spirit, your teachings, and your wisdom. Brotherly Love,

Maranatha Baptist Church
493 Russell Road, Mt. Airy
3161 Old Westfield Road
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041
located in the Westfield Community
P.O. Box 103, Westfield, NC 27053
336-351-5044
www.westfieldfriends.org

To Our Pastor, Dr. Linda Anderson, You lead our congregation by opening God’s word, and then you live your life reflecting all we’ve heard. You care for others deeply and lift them up in prayer, and when we face misfortune, we know that you’ll be there. We really love you, Pastor Linda, for everything you do and we thank God for giving us a Pastor like you.

With Love, Your church family at Westfield Friends Meeting
THANK YOU
PASTOR GRANT MOIR ATKINS

Does not begin to express the gratitude for the countless hours of sacrifice and services that you do for others. Thank you for the sermons that you preach, the word of God you teach and the prayers that you lift up.

God Bless You!
11 Chronicles 7:14

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILY
137 Antioch Avenue, Mount Airy, NC 27030 • (336) 789-2057

TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR
PASTOR PARKER HAYNES

Trinity reaches out with hearts and hands to share Christ-like Compassion.

When Covid19 is over
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

725 W. Dalton Road, King, NC 27021

The Family Of Dover Baptist Church
Would Like to Say A Big

THANK YOU
To Our Pastor Larry Jones For Your Dedication, Faithfulness, Love And All You Do For Us. We Love And Appreciate You And Carolyn With All Our Hearts!

DOVER BAPTIST CHURCH
178 Dover Church Rd
Mount Airy, NC 27030

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy
326 South Main St.
336-786-2803

“An True Servant of God”

We truly Thank God for our Shephard Pastor Alvin, for his humbleness as a servant as he guides us on this journey.

His willingness to give of himself as he always goes above and beyond, not only for his family, but his congregation, community, and anyone or anywhere there is a need. Thank you for your dedication and service not only to God but to us!

St. Home Missionary Baptist church
340 Oak Grove RD. • Elkin, NC 28321

THANK YOU
Pastor Griff Gatewood, for five years of loyal service and dedication to First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy. You have been a loving and devoted pastor who has invested so much time, energy, faithfulness, and leadership in caring for our congregation. You embody a true example of discipleship.

Pastor
Griff Gatewood
Honoring our Pastor, Randy Johnson for his Faithful Service, Godly Leadership and Love for the Lord and His People

First of all, we give praise to our Lord and Savior for our God is faithful, even in the worst of circumstances and trials! Deuteronomy 7:9 says “Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments to a thousand generations.”

The past few months have been difficult, to say the least on everyone, especially our pastors and churches. Yet, through it all we praise God for His care and faithful watch over us, our congregation and church family.

We are especially thankful for our Godly Pastor, Randy Johnson. At a time when many churches have been closed down and others have cut services to a minimum, our Pastor has been diligent and discerning in making prayerful decisions for his congregation. He’s seen that we’ve been able to meet safely, with distancing and extra cleaning protocol. During this challenging time, we have also been involved in a building program which has made it even more difficult. But through it all, Pastor Randy has remained faithful to preach the uncompromised Word of God, tend to the flock and comfort and support us in the loss of loved ones.

With hospitals and Nursing homes closed to visitors, Pastor Randy has replaced in-person visits with daily calls and texting, checking on our elderly folk, the sick, our young people and touching base with every church member on a weekly basis. Not a day passes that he hasn’t shown concern for our physical and spiritual needs, reassuring us that he is just a phone call away if we need him. And during this trying time, Pastor Randy’s family has faced their own personal trials, with close family members being diagnosed and treated for cancer.

Though services have been adjusted, Pastor Randy has remained faithful to preach the uncompromised Word of God Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings. We were equipped to start live streaming just shortly before Covid 19 wreaked havoc, so our folk at home have been able to enjoy the messages during this time. We stand amazed at God’s perfect timing and provision for us at Marler Road through this whole chaotic mess.

In prophetic times, when the world seems turned upside down … when Biblical values are being challenged and many are calling evil good and good evil, we praise God that our Pastor stands firm on the Word of God. Many pastors avoid preaching on hell and the controversial issues of today, but not Pastor Randy. He loves our country and He preaches Godly values with passion as well as compassion. He loves souls and has such a strong desire to bring folk into the fold, always pointing them to the cross and Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 5:17 says, “Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.” We give accolades to Pastor Randy for his willingness to allow God to use him. But most of all we give praise to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the One Pastor Randy continually points us to.

Pastor Randy does not like personal praise or attention, but we are so thankful for him and we know how truly blessed we are to have him and his dear wife Tanya. She has stood faithfully by his side, doing her part to support, encourage, pray and look after the needs of the church family.

God has been so good to us and we praise Him for placing this special couple to be our Under Shepherd and Help Meet. May God bless them now and through eternity!

We love you Pastor Randy and Mrs. Tanya
and we thank God for you!

Marler Road Baptist Church
4433 Collins Road, Hamptonville, NC  336.468.8610